

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

OF THE

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OF LONDON

FOR THE YEAR

1889.

(PLATES.)



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January 15, 1889.

Prof. Flower, C.B., LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of December 1888:—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of December was 74, of which 50 were by presentation, 2 by birth, 8 by purchase, and 14 on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 85.

Among these I may call special attention to the young Chimpanzee purchased of Mr. Cross of Liverpool, December 6. This is apparently of the same species as the specimen purchased October 24, 1883 (see P. Z. S. 1883, p. 464, and 1885, p. 673, pl. xli.), which is still living in the Society's Gardens, and is, so far as can be at present ascertained, referable to the Bald-headed Chimpanzee, *Anthropopithecus calvus* (Du Chaillu)¹.

Mr. Bartlett, in his communication to the Society on this subject (above referred to), has pointed out the distinctions between this Chimpanzee and the ordinary form (*A. troglodytes*).

The receipt of a second specimen is of great interest as tending to confirm the validity of the species. A specimen of the common Chimpanzee of about the same age being also in the Society's collection at the present time, it is easy to make a comparison between the two forms.

¹ See on this subject "The Bald-headed Chimpanzee," in 'Nature,' vol. xxxix. p. 254 (Jan. 10th, 1889).

The following letter addressed to the Secretary by Heer F. E. Blaauw, of Amsterdam, relating to the development of the horns of the White-tailed Gnu (*Catoblepas gnu*), as observed in several examples of this Antelope bred in the writer's menagerie, was read:—

“ 534 Heerengracht, Amsterdam,
December 1888.

“ SIR,—I am now able to send you the long promised drawings showing the development of the horns of *Catoblepas gnu*.

“ The drawings were taken from a female born July 22nd, 1886. When the young Gnu is born the forehead is covered with thick shining hair of a rich chestnut colour, and the places for the horns are marked by little tufts of hair.

“ When the young animal is five or six days old the horns begin to show through the tufts. Remarkable is the position of the ears, which, being made for afterlife, when they are partially covered by the heavy horns, look very long and forlorn, and give the young animal quite an idiotic expression. For a time the horns grow straight, and stand nearly vertically on the head; but gradually the points begin to diverge from each other, which divergence is at its greatest development at the age of eleven weeks (fig. A). At this age what afterwards

Fig. A.



Horns of young *Catoblepas gnu*. 11 weeks old.

become the straight points in the adult (*a-b*, fig. D, p. 4) have come out entirely, and the parts *c-b* (fig. D) now begin to make their appearance, during which process the points assume altogether a different position. It is worthy of notice that even at this early period, when the top of the head is as yet quite covered with hair, the place and form of the horny parts (*d* and *e*, fig. D) in the adult are already visible. This also shows that the points of the horns begin to grow out of the head considerably lower in position than where the future bases of the horns will be.

“ The part *c-b*, fig. D, is now developing, the horn is driven forwards, downwards, and sideways at the same time, and at the age of 16 months looks like fig. B. This goes on until at 19 months